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■ Teenager who raped OAP to be caged for two years

ANGER AT SENTENCE

By Oliver Evans

RESIDENTS on a Banbury estate have hit out at a minimum two-year sentence handed to a 14-year-old boy who raped an OAP during the Remembrance weekend.

Hardwick residents said they were "disgusted" at the sentence for the boy, who will only be released when doctors are satisfied he has been rehabilitated.

The boy, who cannot be named for legal easons, conned his way into the 77-yearold's home on the estate by saying he wanted to talk about the Second World War, as part of a school project.

A judge refused to allow the media to name him after being told he had been "mentally damaged" by his upbringing.

His alcoholic father walked out on his mother at an early age and the boy was around domestic violence incidents involving his mother's boyfriends, Judge Patrick Eccles was told

But Hardwick residents were angry about the sentence.

Decorator Neil Jones, 46, said: "It's not enough." The Kerry Close resident added: "It should have been a damn sight longer. It should have been 15 to 20 years."

An OAP, who did not want to be named, said: "That is what they all come out with - 'I had a bad childhood[']. Surely, if you had a bad childhood you would try to make it better for yourself. The sentence should been at least five years."

William Vinson

Frensham Close resident Denise Dyer, 57, said: "It should be life, and he should be named and shamed."

A young mother, who did not want to be named, said: "It is disgusting. Two years isn't enough. You have your own mind. I have had some trouble in my past but I haven't done anything horrible like that."

But Adele Wilding, 70, of Winchelsea Close, said the sentence was "sufficient", adding: "You have to show compassion. He might be able to do something with his life." At Oxford Crown Court on Friday, Judge

Eccles branded the November 12 attack 'cruel and humiliating". He said: "This was planned. It was not an

impulsive attack. It was sexual and you had "She can be proud of the efforts she made

to protect herself and you should be ashamed of yourself for not stopping." He was told that in a letter to the judge the

victim and her family had demonstrated "empathy and grace" in their reaction to the defendant.

The boy was jailed for an indeterminate time, with a minimum of two years in youth

Speaking in November, the victim said: "I'm trying to continue with my life as normal as I can, but I will never be able to forget what he did to me."

Lisa Ward, of the county-wide Oxford Sexual Abuse and Rape Crisis Centre, said the case showed the "myth" that rape was "linked to sexual gratification"

She said: "In reality, rape is a desire for power and control."



Binoculars at the ready for the big birdwatch event -See Page 9



Plea for industrial sites - Page 8

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'Campaign' of a conman

A "DESPICABLE" distraction burglar tricked his way into more than 100 homes in a "deliberate campaign that continued week after week".

William Vinson posed as a friendly new neighbour, a council worker or an inspector from the electricity board as he targeted victims aged 79 to 94.

The 59-year-old from Chipping Norton left a trail of

'damage and destruction" across nine counties over a twoyear period.

In Great Haseley, South Oxfordshire, victim Joyce Allen never recovered from the effects of Vinson's deception.

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■ Continued on Page 3



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■ Trick 'affected OAP victim's health'

Jailed for his 'despicable' crime spree

■ Continued from Page 1

The 78-year-old, known locally as "'The Queen" and described by her daughter as "sociable and friendly", died four months after she lost about £300.

In a statement, her daughter Patricia Medlicott said: "She felt extremely stupid for what had happened. It's as though her pride took a massive knock.

"In the five minutes it took this man to burgle her it changed her whole life."

Mrs Medlicott said her mother's health deteriorated sharply after the incident in August, adding: "She had said she could see the burglar wherever she was. I truly believe the medical problems were all as a result of the

At Oxford Crown Court on Friday, Vinson was jailed for nine years after previously admitting 11 burglaries and asking for 90 other burglaries to be taken into consideration

The total cash value of his crimes was assessed at about £15,000.

Prosecutor Jonathan Stone said Vinson, of Cotswold Terrace, Chipping Norton, had "three modus operandi".

He said: "This case concerns what are known as distraction burglaries. This is where a burglar adopts a particular persona in order to trick his way into a house and distract often elderly residents while he stole items of value.

"This defendant adopted three particular MOs. He would either say 'I'm your new neighbour' or 'I'm from social services and welfare" using a bogus ID card, or say 'I'm from the electricity board'.'

Mr Stone said Vinson, who has 35

pseudonym Dave Knight and would often pose as a new neighbour who needed change for large bank notes to pay a plumber.

When his victims went to fetch their money, he would note the location of their purse or handbag and ask for a bucket of water.

While the water was being fetched he would steal the money.

Vinson's other victims included elderly residents in Southmoor, Checkendon and Stoke Row, as well dozens of others in neighbouring

Robert English, defending, said: "Mitigation in a case such as this is not always the easiest of tasks. I'm not going to pretend there could be anything attractive about any of the features of the various cases that are before the court.

He said his client was "absolutely ashamed" and "deeply regretted" his

Judge Anthony King jailed Vinson for nine years.

He said: "This was a deliberate and calculated campaign targeted at elderly persons aged between 79 and 94 committed over at least nine counties and committed knowing that you were going to be entering the homes of strangers; all elderly, some infirm, many living on their own.

"Having breached that trust, you then stole from each of them. These offences can only be described as despicable and it's not just the occasional offence but a deliberate campaign continued



Celebrity chef to take over local pub

CELEBRITY chef Marco Pierre White is to take over a north Oxfordshire pub.

The Hell's Kitchen star has bought The Black Boy Inn at Milton.

Bar supervisor Hannah Abraham said trade had already picked up as rumours spread and the chef was expected to take over in a few weeks.

She said: "It is exciting. The word has spread very

"A lot of people know who he is and come here more often, hoping to see

"Business has picked up a little bit. I think it will definitely pull more people

The pub has been sold by Bespoke Hotels to the chef, who has set up a firm to manage it.

Changes to the menu and interior were possible, she said, adding: "We don't know anything at all, just that our jobs are secure.

'He came here and loved it. He enjoyed the way we served him. He liked the relaxed atmosphere.

Banbury

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Email letters to letters@banburycake.co.uk

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Although we strive to avoid errors, some may slip through the net. If you find an error of fact, please write to the Editor, Simon O'Neill, at Newspaper House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0EJ, or telephone him on 01865 425450. It is our policy to correct mistakes where it is appropriate.



Happy Chinese

The recycled paper content of UK newspapers in 2010

at Stoke-on-Trent Crown

Alexander Bede Walsh, of Abbots Bromley, near Rugeley, denies 25 charges of sexually assaulting seven boys

Priest on child sex charges THE trial of the former priest of St John's Roman Catholic Church, Banbury, has begun

over a 20-year period.

The 57-year-old's trial is expected to last for three



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InBRIEF

School earns Ofsted praise

■ BISHOP Carpenter Primary School, in School Lane, North Newington, has received a good overall rating from Ofsted. The school, which has 106 pupils, was praised for "very effective leadership" and a "rigorous approach".

Oxbridge success rate

■ MORE schoolchildren from Oxfordshire get into Oxbridge than anywhere else in the country, apart from Surrey, new figures have shown. The Department of Business, Innovation and Skills revealed that in 2009-2010, Oxfordshire had the second highest number of successful Oxbridge applicants, with 210 both state and independent candidates.

Back to the shop floor

■ A BLOG has been set up by managers of Oxfordshire's community and mental health trust who have gone "back to the floor" in a bid to see firsthand the rewards and frustrations. See oxford health.nhs.uk/back-to-the-

Bulk-buying partnership that has led to big cut in heating bills

Community oil scheme rolls out

By Samantha McGregor

A SCHEME to bulk-buy heating oil, which has saved Oxfordshire residents tens of thousands of pounds, has been rolled out across the country.

Launched in 2010 by Oxfordshire Rural Community Council and Chris Pomfret, who runs Community Buying unLimited, the partnership has already saved people up to £71,151 by clubbing together to buy heating oil.

Now the win-win initiative is set to bring in extra cash for the charity-run rural council after it was packaged up and sold as a franchise to other coun-

So far 19 of the 37 other Rural Community Partnerships in the country have bought into the scheme.

Households pay £20 a year to be part of the co-operative and place their order through a local co-ordinator.

Mr Pomfret then negotiates a price with oil companies on behalf of every-

And because he is buying in bulk,

now in the region of 400,000 litres at a time, he gets the best price.

Linda Watson, chief executive of ORCC, said: "Environmentally it reduces the carbon footprint of tankers, as an oil supplier goes to a community once and that saves the supplier's costs.

"People are saving money and it's advantageous for oil suppliers as it's saving them transport costs and they are also getting customers handed to them on a plate.

"We are doing the marketing for them and sorting the logistics. "We have still got other councils

coming back to us wanting to join.

It was Mr Pomfret, who was running an oil syndicate, who saw the potential of expanding the service, and approached the rural council.

. Together they worked out the logistics of the scheme.

Last year the group bought a total 662,000 litres of oil and that is set to

Ms Watson said: "Although my intention had been to demonstrate this could work in Oxfordshire, it became clear it could be replicated in other counties. What we did was package it up into a franchise and made it avail-

"Chris now negotiates on behalf of all the rural community councils."

North Oxfordshire MP Tony Baldry said: "I think it's a brilliant scheme which enables people to come together and be confident they can purchase heating oil at the most competitive price at the time.



ABOVE: ORCC chief Linda Watson LEFT: Banbury MP Tony Baldry

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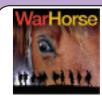
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Olympics and holidays could hit vital stocks

Blood: danger that lies ahead

By Fran Bardsley and Rhianne Pope

HEALTH bosses fear a "perfect storm" of events could see blood donations dramatically drop.

Staff from the NHS Blood and Transplant service have warned events such as the Olympics and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee could lead to a serious fall in the number of donors.

An average 1,300 units of blood are collected by people in Oxfordshire each week.

But this dropped to just 921 in the week after Christmas, a time when people are traditionally busy.

Donor relations manager Dominic Sutherland said: "The main problem is that a string of Bank



TO DONATE: Visit blood.co.uk for a list of sessions or call 0300 1232323. First-time donors should be aged 17 to 65, weigh at least 50kg or 7st 12lb, and be in general good health. Most people can give blood every 16 weeks

Holidays, along with sporting events, are going to prevent and reduce the opportunity for people to donate.

"People may be taking extended holidays, potentially going to the events themselves or may even just be distracted.

"It's going to be an exciting year for the UK but we're concerned that the cluster of major events could dramatically impact the number of blood dona-

tions coming in."

A football World Cup quarter-final and Wimbledon semi-final in early July 2010 led to 851 fewer donations nationally than the same day a year earlier.

And there were thousands fewer donations nationally over the extra run of Bank Holidays around Easter and the Royal Wedding in 2011.

On average, big hospitals can use more than 500 units of blood each week.

Each unit, which is just under a pint at 470ml, can save three adult lives or seven babies.

Mr Sutherland said: "The need for blood in Oxfordshire and across the country is constant."

About two million units of blood will be needed nationwide in 2012 and the blood service has estimated it needs the equivalent of 500 extra donations each week in the first six months.

The aim is to help build blood stocks and provide extra resources for those visiting the country to watch or participate in the Olympics.

So far, blood donation staff in Oxfordshire have collected 31,000 units of blood for the 2011-2012 financial year. Their target is 42,000.







Inquest verdict on railway track death

Teen died after police interview

By Andy Ffrench

A TEENAGER, who died after being hit by a train, had been interviewed by police earlier the same day about a burglary, an inquest heard.

Oxford Coroner's Court was told that Jordan Quinn, of Warwick Road, Banbury, died from multiple injuries after being hit by the freight train at Little Bourton on March 18 last

Until about an hour before he died, the 19year-old and three other men were being interviewed by police at Banbury police station on tion, until the time he died.

Police were called to the railway line shortly before

In documentary evidence, train driver Jonathan Ascher told the inquest that his 25-wagon train, destined Manchester, was travelling at 66mph when he saw someone standing on the track.

He said: "I immediately tried to stop the train by turning the power off and applying the emergency

But shortly afterwards, the court was told, Mr Ascher heard a loud bang and realised that he must have struck a person on the track.

Coroner Nicholas Gardiner told the court the post-mortem examination showed Mr Quinn had died from multiple injuries.

Following the death of Mr Quinn, the professional standards department of Thames Valley Police conducted an investigation after liaising with the Independent Complaints Commission.

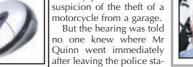
Mick Meeks, who conducted the investigation, said CCTV footage from Banbury police station showed Mr Quinn was quite relaxed during the interview.

He added that there were "no raised voices or agitation" and that Mr Quinn was released on police bail at about 6.20pm after spending eight hours at the police station.

Coroner Nicholas Gardiner said Mr Quinn must have realised that he "was in peril of his own life" on the railway tracks and recorded a verdict that he took his own life.

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Inbrief

Civic call to go multi-coloured

■ BANBURY businesses are being encouraged to deck their premises in a burst of colour to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. **Banbury Town Council wants** firms to prepare to honour Her Majesty for the June celebrations. It also hopes this will help Banbury retain its gold award presented by the Royal Horticultural Society for its Britain in Bloom campaign last year.

Decision on solar projects

A £1m council plan to install solar panels on leisure centres and other public buildings will be put to councillors for decision today. Cherwell District Council says the plan will save £81,000 a year for the next 25 years. Costs will break even after 15 years. The plans include arrays of panels at the council's Bodicote House HQ and Spiceball Leisure Centre, Banbury. Council officers are recommending all should be approved.

Call to set aside more land for industry

A COMMERCIAL surveyor has said Banbury is attracting businesses from all over the country but has nowhere to put

Chris White, of White Commercial Surveyors, believes there is not enough industrial space in the town to meet demands.

This comes as his company announces the sale of a building on Wildmere Road Industrial

By Damian **Fantato**

Mr White said: "If you look at where Banbury is, it is right in the middle of central England. It is in a great location.

"There is no doubt that there are companies looking to move in to our area and that is good for employment and for money being spent."

The connection to London and Birmingham. via the M40, was another benefit of Banbury's 'Town is running out of decent location, Mr White said.

should be setting more Chris White, of White Commercial Surveyors land aside for companies

"But district council planners need to be putting more land aside for industrial land because companies may look to move out of Banbury if they can't find space to expand."

Claire Kingsbury, of Banbury Chamber of Commerce, said: "I think there needs to be more done to look at areas that can be used for industrial space and to try to

encourage businesses to come to the town." Mr White's company

recently sold Unit 18 to consumables supplier International Applications for more than £1m. It had been empty for

two years, before which it was home to a healthcare company employing around 150 people.

Karl Durham, the MD of International Applications, said:

"Banbury is a great location due to its centralised position and eve-growing population.

"Our company has grown significantly since its formation and we are confident Banbury will prove ideal in facilitating all aspects of our future growth."

Cherwell's planning chief, Michael Gibbard, said: "We are currently drawing up a core strategy which will identify sites for housing and employment.

They are both high on the agenda and it is due to go out for consultation in April.



Chris White, of White Commercial Chartered Surveyors, left, is pictured at the Wildmere Road Industrial Estate property he has recently sold to Karl Durham, MD of International Applications

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HUNDREDS of homes and businesses could be left waiting until the end of the month for their Internet and phone lines to be fixed after thieves stole almost 1,000 metres of copper cabling.

But he believes

to move on to.

Banbury.

of demand.

Cherwell District Council

This is because Mr

White feels the town is

running out of space to

put the companies that

are considering a move to

He said: "The main

sized industrial buildings.

into industrial space in

response to the good level

"Some developers have purchased land to turn

problem is that we are

running out of decent

The raid was on BT's Steeple Aston exchange on Friday.

Barton and Tackley have been without services since then.

BT spokesman Anna Steven said three sections of cable, each 350m long, were taken. Work to fix the problem was beginning on Monday but even once the main cables were replaced, every line would have to be connected manually.

She said: "This is painstaking work but they will be cracking on with it as quickly as possible.

"We would ask anyone who noticed anything suspicious to contact the police.'

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■ Make a date this weekend and join in the RSPB's Big Garden event



Keen birdwatcher Steve Akers, of Chipping Norton

Binoculars ready for birdwatching

By Oliver Evans

AMATEUR ornithologists are being urged to polish their binoculars and keep this weekend free for a massive birdwatching survey.

The RSPB is urging people to observe the feathered friends that arrive in their back garden on Saturday and Sunday for its Big Garden Birdwatch event.

It has been held every year since 1979 to paint a picture of the UK's garden bird population.

Last year's event saw more than 11,000 county residents record a resurgence in small birds, with the house sparrow the most sighted.

Among those taking part will be Chipping Norton resident Steve Akers with his wife, Sharon, and sons Rory, nine, and Louis, seven.

The Unison official hit headlines last year when birdwatchers flocked to his garden in The Leys to see a rare Oriental Turtle Dove.

He said: "I do it religiously every year. It is a very pleasurable thing to sit down and take the time to focus for an hour"

The event is also vital to have a picture of the UK's bird population to lobby Government over protection of species, he said. The 56-yearold said: "I have been watching birds since I was eight and I have seen a really significant decline in what were very common birds."

Turtle Dove was because of destruction of habitats and use of chemicals by farmers,

Zoe Edwards, who works at the RSPB Otmoor nature reserve, near Beckley, urged residents to take part.

She said: "It helps the RSPB to keep track of the ups and downs of garden birds and, at the same time, gives people the opportunity to enjoy their local outside spaces.

"People aren't aware of how many birds there are in their garden. If you take the time to watch you will see so many." The milder winter could see a change

in species this year, she said.

A counting sheet with pictures of species can be downloaded from rspb.org.uk/birdwatch and those taking part will also be able to submit results

To request a pack of entry details call 0300 456 8330.

Schools can also record results from January 16 to 30. For information visit rspb.org.uk/ schoolswatch or call 0300 456 8340.

Rise in NHS claims pushes up prices

OXFORDSHIRE'S hospital trusts will have to pay an extra ten per cent on their insurance policies because of the rising costs of clinical negligence claims.

Figures released for 2010/11 show the Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals Trust spent more in negligence payouts than anywhere else in England last vear.

Some £13m was paid out to patients. which rose to £15.3m including legal costs. It is not known how many cases it relates

The money is not paid out directly by the trust, which has since become the Oxford University Hospitals Trust. Instead it makes annual contributions to the NHS Litigation Authority, which then handles claims

Locally claims have risen from £6.7m in 2005/06 to £13.2m last year.

Council in £10m pledge over better broadband

AN extra £10m has been pledged by Oxfordshire County Council to improve broadband.

Under the Conservative administration's proposed capital budget, the council will match-fund the £3.86m allocated to the county by Government agency Broadband Delivery UK last year.

And an extra £6.14m will be spent on upgrading the Oxfordshire Community Network broadband system for

the county's schools.

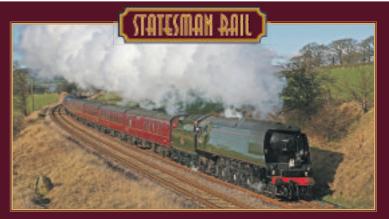
Council deputy leader David Robertson said: "The schools network is coming to the end of its natural life and needs to be

upgraded.
"A good few schools already have superfast broadband, and most secondary schools have 100Mbps already.

"The Oxfordshire Community Network is better than anything that schools could get from the market, but it is beginning to look a bit old hat."

He said upgrading the network would save over £1m a

The remaining £7.72m will be spent on projects to roll out superfast broadband across the



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InBRIEF

TV judge on the move

■ BRITAIN'S Got Talent judge Amanda Holden has reportedly bought a home near Chipping Norton. The pregnant star is believed to have bought a 17th-century cottage for £860,000 with record producer husband Chris Hughes, 36.

Sweeping changes

■ THE streets of Neithrop and Hardwick were to be the focus of a "neighbourhood blitz" this week, with the arrival of Cherwell District Council's street cleaning team. Council staff were carrying out extra pavement cleaning, road sweeping and graffiti scrubbing. To report fly-tipping or graffiti to the team call 01295 227003 or email customer.service@ cherwell-dc.gov.uk

Museum plans puppet fun

■ A CHILDREN'S craft event at Banbury museum will teach the art of finger puppetmaking. The event at 10.30am on Saturday costs £2.50 and is suitable for children aged three and older.

As economy reins in estate schemes, five-year blueprint fails to add up

Planning chief's fear over building blocks



Planning and housing chief Michael Gibbard

By Oliver Evans

HOUSING developers could get the upper hand in battles to build new estates, a council boss fears, after it was revealed a key housing target is being missed.

Michael Gibbard said developers might be able to overturn Cherwell District Council's vetos on building new estates as the authority was not getting homes built elsewhere.

The council has backed a minimum 3,369 homes at 16 sites in Banbury and its surrounding villages in a bid to provide affordable housing and to curb

But only 2,547 have been built so far with no development at sites like Bankside, that had been earmarked for 950 homes between Banbury and Bodicote.

Other sites backed by council planners but have not been built include 153 homes west of Banbury train station and 70 at Bretch Hill Farm, off Broughton

Civic officers have worked out that the

number of housing schemes that have been given the green light would meet demand for 2.8 years – but the Government target is five years.

Mr Gibbard fears developers could now convince The Planning Inspectorate, which handles appeals, to approve schemes on other sites

Mr Gibbard said: "That is the concern, that we will be penalised for that nondelivery of homes.

"The planning permission is there, but because of economic factors, they are not being built."

He called for a Government "moratorium" on the five-year target, adding: "It was a policy that was drawn up very much in the boom time for housing."

A council report says the district was "vulnerable to unplanned and speculative applications" without "careful management"

Rejected plans for 65 homes in Adderbury and 82 in Bloxham are now going to appeal, with both developers arguing the failure to hit the five-year target strengthens their case.

Roland Bratt, the landowner for the Cotefield Farm, Bodicote, plan said: "It is impossible to meet the housing needs

from the existing plan. The reason homes are unaffordable at the moment is because of the shortage of supply. It is as simple as that."

Residents are "crying out" for new homes to drive down prices elsewhere and provide affordable homes, he added. The council had a waiting list of 4,000 people.

Berkeley Homes applied to build houses off Milton Road, Adderbury, in October, saying it should be allowed as the five-year target was being missed. It has now appealed to the Planning Inspectorate as the council had not made a decision within an eight-week time

Another application for the same scheme has been submitted and is expected to be considered by the council's planning committee on February 23.

And residents criticised plans for 150 homes for a field south of the Salt Way, seen as the symbolic divide between Banbury, Bloxham and Bodicote.

The site is not among the 16 supported by the council, which will consult on them in April and May to submit to ministers for approval in July.



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banburycake.co.uk/leisure BANBURY CAKE, Thursday, January 26, 2012 11

CakeLeisure

Trying to tame 'problem' play

LAST year, everyone was talking about a certain Kate's wedding.

Of course, the bride who captured everyone's attentions was the demure Kate Middleton, who claimed her prince and lived publicly ever after.

This year there's a very different Kate who could give her a run for her money.

The RSC is tackling Taming Of The Shew.

It's often viewed as a "problem" play, perhaps something to do with the plot, which sees our "hero" Petruchio acquiring a feisty wife, dragging her through the mud, starving her, torturing her with sleep deprivation and trying to send her round the bend. In Shakespeare's curious and unpalatable finale, Kate emerges meek and "tamed".

Or does she?

Lisa Dillon, known to many fans as Mary in Cranford, tackles the role of wildcat Katharina. "With Kate it's this very fine line that you walk of her becoming a victim," she says. "And that's the challenge playing her. I am determined she's not a victim. She's a victim of her own circumstances and a victim of her own will, and the way people regard her, but she shouldn't be a victim of Petruchio. I find that tricky."

By Liz Nicholls

Helping in her cause is David Caves, who plays her sparring partner, easing the love story with his humour and fairly hypnotic good looks.

Director Lucy Bailey has approached the play as a highly charged, romantic meeting of minds. "They are both outsiders, misfits," she says.

"Petruchio is a wanderer who can't settle, who, if he hadn't met Kate, would have continued his bonkers life-on-the-road.

"And Kate, if she hadn't met Petruchio, would have died ostracised, institutionalised as 'mad', lonely. So the fact they do crawl their way to each other is such a wonderful thing!

"Once Petruchio says 'Come, Kate, we'll to bed', I think you have to imagine they're going to have the best sex ever. Life is going to be turbulent, but compared to the small-minded people around them, in finding each other they've found freedom."

It's a refreshing, post-feminist approach that packs a punch for the production, which runs at Stratford-upon-Avon until February 25, before touring to Newcastle-on-Tyne, Milton Keynes, Nottingham, Richmond and Bath.

Another bold step Lucy has taken is using the tricky Christopher Sly play-within-a-play framing device as inspiration rather than discarding it as many directors choose.

"It's clever, beautiful, seductive and funny – a piece of poetry in itself," says Lucy. "The whole thing of beds and dreams became my hook."

This explains the lush set, set in 1940s Italy centred around... a bed.

"The play works like foreplay and it stages the battle of the sexes – which ends in bed.

"I took the bed as a metaphor for life really: we're born in a bed, we (most of us!) first have sex in a bed and we die in our beds. So the bed is a sort of sports arena for the piece. But it's also a public forum, because, paradoxically, most of the intimate scenes in the Shrew take place in public: the intimacy of the bed is denied.

"The beauty of the play is that Kate and Petruchio finally come to a private understanding that is profound and indestructible."

It's a tricky one to pull off, but there are sure to be many spectators toasting the happy couple – maybe even more than the HRHs.

■ Taming of the Shrew runs at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre until February 25 before heading off on tour. To book tickets, visit www.rsc.org.uk



MATCH: Lisa Dillon and David Caves are set to sizzle as Kate and Petruchio

Hamsters set for swansong

■ FOR the past 20 years the Hamsters have been on a neverending tour of duty, bringing their homegrown brand of blues-rock to the masses.

Now the Thames Estuary riffmonsters are calling it a day. Wipe your eyes, however, because you have one more chance to see Slim and the lads when they pitch up at The Mill, Banbury, on February 4. Expect all the favourites from the rodent-rockers' epic back

catalogue plus some pretty mean interpretations of Hendrix and ZZ Top classics. Tickets are £13.50 in advance, from the box office on 01295 279002.

Do get in early, though – this one is sure to sell out.

SUPPORTERS of grass roots rock and roll are being reminded to support local talent in the area's biggest and best showcases of new talent.

The MMG Battle of the Bands contest is now royally under way, with rounds already completed in Oxford and Bicester. Now attention focuses on our fair town, with a tournament of riffery taking place at The Chapel, in Banbury, on February 2.

The show will see Quite For the



The Hamsters lead guitarist, Slim

Speaker, White Heather, The Rafters, Lostcords and Zaos gracing the stage and duelling for a chance to go through to the next round, and ultimately, for a crack at the national finals, and the possibility of blagging recording time, merchandising and a place in a UK showcase. Go on... support your local bands! For more details go to www.majickmusicgroup.com

KICK-off that winter chill with a blast of steamy Southern-fried hoe-down fun, courtesy of the Southern Tenant Folk Union.

The Edinburgh barnstormers are

among the UK's finest folk/bluegrass bands, and corner the market in bluegrass, gospel, country, folk-pop fusion. They bring their banjos, mandolins, fiddles and close-harmony vocals to The Mill Arts Centre this Friday to promote fourth album *Pencaitland*.

Tickets are £10 (£8 concessions). Call the box office on 01295 279002.

■ RELIVE those school disco days (or, if your are too young, imagine what it was like to grow up in the decade of Thatcher, Rubik's Cubes and ridiculous shoulder pads), by getting down to the music of Suggs and co, care of the country's best Madness Tribute act.

It Must Be Madness are the ultimate tribute to the "Nutty Boys", recreating the live energy and excitement of the Camden lads in their prime. Expect such favourites as Baggy Trousers, Night Boat to Cairo and House of Fun, and, above all, be prepared to dance. They play the Leamington assembly Rooms on Friday. Tickets are £12.50 from www2.seetickets.com. Doors open at 7.30pm.



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MEMORIES TO COME Honest, sincere, open minded Banbury female, 31, enjoys romantic walks by the sea, meals, cook ing, singing & karaoke, poetry and writing short stories, wltm a nice man to share interest

together.. Box 114566 HOPEFULLY YOURS Voluptuous remate, 31, snort hair, seeking a nice, good looking, fun guy, 24-57 for laughter and romance. Swindon.. Box **104678 T**

HAPPY GO LUCKY 38yr old lady, 5ft1, size 14. I have 2 sons and would like to meet a happy, laid back guy who likes kids. Devizes.. Box 467878 T

LOVE TO TALK Dark-eyed Wilts girl, 42, 5'2", enjoys nights out, movies and more, searching for an independent gent, to cosy times and conversation.. Box 113059 T

STARTING FRESH Separated caring Witney woman, 43, hon-est, GSOH, trustworthy, enjoys family life, swimming, music, theatre, cinema and walks seeking a similar man, kind and sincere, for dates & laughter.. Box 116588 T

FOR STARTERS... Loving, caring FOR STARTERS... Loving, caring Oxford mum, 43, genuine, ac-tive, attractive, enjoys theatre, cinema, walks and nights in, seeking a similar family man, honest, funny and kind for sharing good times with.. Box 114046 T

SOUND NICE? Fun, curvy Wilt-shire brunette, 44, green eyes, looking for genuine, loving guy I am caring person with GSOH... Box 852093 T

LIFE IS TO SHARE Single, genuine Oxfordshire woman, 45, GSOH, slim/med build, N/S, 5'5", enjoys days out, music, films and walking, seeking a special man, kind, loving and fun, for a long term relationship.. Box **115621** T

KEEP UP WITH ME! Understanding, easygoing Oxford woman 46, lively, slim, 5'6'', eniovs keeping fit, sport and socialis-ing, seeking a similar man, keeping it, sport and socials ing, seeking a similar man, open-minded, funny and car-ing, for friendship and more.. Box **114360 T**

SMOOTH MOVE Slim, blue-eyed SMOOTH MOVE Slim, blue-eye Trowbridge female, 47, 5'2", GSOH, easy to get on with, enjoys nights out, walks and more, searching for an honest, active, interesting man.. Box

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LOST FOR WORDS Swindon girl, 47, enjoys socialising, skiing badminton and more, searching for a down to earth man.. Box 108304

NEW DIRECTION Swindon girl, 48, 5'5", med build, blonde enjoys travel, skiing, town life and socialising, searching for an equally interesting man.. Вох 108306

SHARING THE GOOD TIMES Cheerful female, 48, blonde hazel eyes, medium build, live travelling, dining in & out, wltm spontaneous guy, for good times.. Box **101568**

LOTS OF FUN Blonde, cuddly female, 48, 5ft, pastry chef with children, searching for a youthful chap, to share life with.. Box 113078 T

HOPE IT'S YOU Happy go lucky, outgoing Trowbridge female 49, enjoys bowling, cinema, ice skating, would like to meet a fun, happy male, to enjoy life with.. Box **106719**

SEE FOR YOURSELF Young 51yr old, 5'5", own house/car, enjoys walking my dog, socialising, affection, seeks male, 44-50 for a long term relationship. Swindon.. Box 104009 T

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THIS & MORE Loving, caring and voluptuous Swindon lady, outhful 51 cheerful and hard-working, looking for my knight in shining armour, to restore my faith in men, and share friendship and outings. Box **115951** T

SOMEONE EXACTLY LIKE YOU Caring, lovely, bubbly Bicester lady, 52, looking for a tall, kind, caring and romantic man for a lasting loving relationship.. Box 118921 T

I'LL TREAT YOU RIGHT Separated female, 53, gsoh, likes going out, socialising, music, seeks friendly male, 38-48 for good times and more. Swindon.. Box 104377 T

THAT SPECIAL PERSON Honest. companionship & lots more. Bicester. Could Nigel please leave contact number again please.. Box 110670 T

TIME TO START AFRESH Black, caring, African Epsom lady, 5'2", likes countryside, garden-ing, cooking and holidays, 50-70 for a long term relationship. Box 117888 T

CAN YOU SAY THE SAME? Attractive, slim-built Oxford lady, 55, 5'4", likes visiting art gal-leries, classical music/concerts, looking for companionship oossibly leading to more.. Box

JUST THE TWO OF US Separated, slim, smart, attractive Marlborough lady, mid-50s, young at heart, likes meals out, dogs, seeking a friend/ soulmate to go ahead with me in life.. Box 463351 T

COUNTRY WALK? Easy going lady, 56, 5'7", N/S, slim, enjoys walking in the countryside and country pubs. Looking for a man to enjoy a takeaway and DVD together. Swindon.. Box

LOOKING TO START AGAIN Non smoking petite lady, 55, seek-ing non-smoking man who's not overweight, and likes pubs, restaurants and quiet drives. Wantage., Box 465651 T

COUNTRY LADY Sporty lady. 58, widowed with grown up family. Enjoys walking her 2 dogs and playing bowls for a local team. Seeks similar gent for friendship and romance... Box 100171 T

NICE COMPANY Attractive NICE COMPANY Attractive female, 59, 5'6", size 12, no ties, N/S, enjoys socialising, travelling, seeks smart guy with no ties, to enjoy life with. Bicester.. Box 100589

A TRUE FRIEND Separated, easygoing female, 59, likes cooking, evenings in/out, seeks friendly male, to enjoy life with. Witney.. Box 100451

LOVE IS FOR SHARING Easygo ing, sincere Trowbridge lady, 59, med build, 5'6", GSOH, N/S, enjoys good social life S, enjoys good social life darts, music, walking & reading, searching for that special guy, N/S and caring for dates & more.. Box 116161 T

ENDLESS LOVE Young 57 from Wiltshire, divorced brunette n/s, works part time, play darts, love gardening, reading, walking, looking for a gent 49-58, to share life with.. Box **454148**

GENUINE AND CARING Oxfordshire widow, 50s, 51tb, stender build, sociable, caring and well-travelled, searching for a genuine, professional guy, non-smoker, for friendship, maybe lasting love.. Box 466487

OUTGOING & ENTHUSIASTIC? OUTGOING & ENTHUSIASTIC? Oxfordshire widow, 58, slende 5ft6, dark hair, sociable and caring, well travelled, attrac-tive, seeking guy who's caring, professional and considerate.. Box 467516

ENJOY LIFE Retired, attractive, slim Oxfordshire lady, 60, searching for a gent, 55-60, to share happy times, friendship and maybe more.. Box 113207

FUN TO BE WITH Attractive lady, 5'2", 58, very social and enjoys nights out and in, weekends away looking for a man with a gsoh who is fun.. Box 458867

SOCIABLE SORT I'm looking for a sociable man with an active lifestyle for a LTR. I'm 59, tall and blonde, I like walks, cars and gardening. Swindon. Box 452750

SOMETHING MEANINGFUL Outgoing, happy Witney female, 62, tall and slim, many interest such as reading, the country-side, music and dancing, would like to meet a friendly chap for term relationship.. Box

CHATS OVER A PINT? Country woman looking to meet a loving, dark haired, slim man. I'm 63yrs old, 57", slim and fit, love being outside, walking and gardening, Marlborough/ Wiltshire. Box 112241 T

POSSIBLE RELATIONSHIP Part rospice RELATIONSHIP Part-time language teacher from Kidlington, 63, widow, likes walking, gardening, places of interest, dancing, seeking a chatty man for conversations and to laugh together. Boy and to laugh together.. Box 115447 T

EACH DAY IS A NEW ONE Widow lady, 64, brown hair, blue/grey eyes, likes walking, reading, watching films, family life, gardening, seeks nice ge ltr. Witney. Box **105525**

THE BETTER THINGS IN LIFE Divorced Swindon female, 64, 5'5", works part-time. likes walking, travelling and cooking, would like to meet a nice sociable gent, with a good lifestyle, to enjoy life with.. Box

NEW IN TOWN Easygoing, slim woman, 65, 5'6", blonde, likes jazz, live shows, reading and walks, seeks down-2-earth male, for genuine friendship and more.. Box 100721

114628 T

SO HAPPY TOGETHER Loving sincere and attractive lady, 65. cuddly, would like to meet a gent who likes country walks, meals out, social drinks and places of interest for companionship.. Box 114914 T

LEAD THE WAY A modern N/S Kidlington lady, 68, 5'7", slim build, likes gardening, reading, cooking, cinema and travel, looking for an interesting gentlemen to share days out & eating out.. Box 114769 T

DOWN TO EARTH Happy-go-lucky female, young 67, slim/ medium build, love walking, cooking, gardening, kisses and cuddles, looking for a non-smoking, clean-shaven man, 59-65, for a relationship Swindon. Box **454288 T**

GREAT COMPANIONS Widow theatre, wltm easygoing gent 60-70 for companionshi maybe more.. Box **104917 T**

ARE YOU THE LUCKY ONE?! Happy go lucky, solvent Banbury lady, 73, still working, Banbury lady, 73, still worki likes travel, going out and about, would like to meet a trustworthy chap to enjoy life together.. Box 115637



BE YOURSELF Affectionate honest, slightly disabled Oxford male, 35, wide circle of friends, can be a bit shy at times, loves history, watching sci fi, looking for a strong minded woman.. Box 115975

WE COULD BE GOOD TO-GETHER Down to earth male, 36, enjoys cycling, walking, travelling, seeks laid back female, for good times and more. Swindon.. Box 100773 T

PLENTY OF TLC Loving male, 39, 5'7", usual interests, from Didcot, looking for love and romance.. Box **111253** T

PERFECT HARMONY Fun loving easygoing, tactile Witney biker, 40, 6', stocky build, shaven head and goatee, seeks fun loving, cheeky lady to share life with.. Box 108035

THAT WONDERFUL FEELING Laid back, sporty Woodstock male, 41, likes family life, nights in & out, having a laugh, seeks warm hearted easygoing female, for good company. Box 114209 T MOVE FORWARD TOGETHER

Honest, Oxford male, 43, 6'2", dark hair, own business, likes playing golf, holidays, looking for mature lady 45-60, to enjoy life together.. Box 113541

PART OF YOUR WORLD Genuine male, 45, single dad, likes weekends away, family life, so-cialising, looking for a outgoing female, for fun, friendship and more. Newbury.. Box 103015

LIFE IS MADE FOR TWO Happy, active Abingdon man, 45, GSOH, med build, positive, enjoys walking, swimming and cinema, would like to meet a similar lady, 50-75, fit and posi-tive, for friendship and maybe more.. Box 114348 T

HOPE FOR US Youthful, blue eyed male, 46, enjoys the gym and good times, searching for a nice, honest woman. Oxford. Box 100657 T

WE CAN BE HAPPY Fun male, 44, likes meals out, keeping fit, weekends away, 5ft9in, seeking friendship maybe more with someone special. Banbury.. Box 854670 T

Witney male, 47, 6′, blue eyes, enjoys sports, music, cosy nights in, going out and having a laugh, would like to meet a female friend, for good company and laughter. Box 115039 T

TAKE A TRIP WITH ME Open minded Oxford guy, 49, likes all kinds of music, reading, visiting galleries, going to the cinema, eating out, walking and good conversation, wltm a female to share good times with.. Box 115321

115321 I
LOVE TO HAVE A LAUGH
Friendly, warm hearted
Abingdon male, 49, good sense
of humour, would like to meet
a caring matured guy, to enjoy
good times together, for a
long term relationship.. Box
115894 T

LITERALLY SPEAKING Easygo-ing Wantage male, 50, works full-time, likes most sports, would like to meet a friendly female for good times leadin to more.. Box 119054 T

to more.. Box 119034 | TIME FOR A CHANGE Easygoing, active kiddington male, 50, likes meals out, cinema, country walks and all the things couples do together, looking for that special female, to spend some quality time with.. Box 114479 T

MORE IN TIME Friendly male, 51, 5'5", blue eyes, works with horses, seeking a loving female, 40-60 to settle down with.. Box 104741 T

LOTS OF AFFECTION Divorced. caring, trustworthy male, 51 loves the country life, pubs, history, DIY, motor sports, wltm sincere woman, to sett down with. Wallingford.. Box 102120 T

FINDING HAPPINESS Upbeat. FINDING HAPPINESS Upbeat, friendly Banbury male, 52, non-smoker, seeking a friendly N/S female 45+, who enjoys country walks, country pubs, socialising and genuinely good company. Box 118975

NOT TO BE MISSED Spontane-NOT TO BE MISSED Spontane-ous, caring, hard working Oxford guy, 53, likes music, cooking, live bands, good wines, F1 racing, would like to meet a simple woman to share life with.. Box 115773 T

KIND AND CONSIDERATE RIND AND CONSIDERATE Asian gent, 53, 5'4", enjoys good company, conversations, eating out, country walks and photography, seeking a lovely lady for long term relationship Box 116626 T

IN IT FOR THE LONG RUN Genuine bloke, 54, from Didcot, happy go lucky person, looking for a young at heart lady to enjoy life with.. Box **111665** T

LOVE THE COMPANY Down to earth male, 55, 5'10", gsoh, many interest, seeks female, 35-60 any race, for fun, laughter and more. Banbury.. Box 104545

A FUTURE FILLED WITH LAUGH-TER Divorced, young to heart male, 55, own house in Oxford, likes cinema, theatre, clubs, times and more.. Box 107632

STAR GAZER We are all in the gutter but I am a star gazer, if you are a firm fragrant female and would like to meet a surprising fit 55yr old male, I am waiting.. Box **116935 T** THE HONEST KIND Easygoing

male, 56, from Oxford, likes cinema, sports, nights in, seeks female for friendship leading to more.. Box **110649** MAKE THE CONNECTION Outgo-

ing widower, 57, smoker, N/D, lives in Oxford, looking for a nice female for good times and more.. Box 108952

SPECIAL EVENINGS Upbeat Wantage male, 57, likes sports. horse racing and meeting people, looking for a woman with a good sense of humour, 40-50 for friendship hopefully leading to more.. Box 116553 T

A FRESH START Country loving man, 57, 6ft tall, blue eyes, average build. I'd love to meet a nice lady to go out with and have fun again. Abingdon.. Box 463069 T

SHARING GOOD TIMES Upbeat

Burford widower, 57, own cars, works full time, likes days in and out, countryside walks, driving, looking for a similar

woman for companionship..

PASSION FLOWER Young look-

ing 58yr old, 5'9", dark hair, wears glasses, enjoys cinema,

bowling, days out, socialising, seeks loving, loyal female, for LTR. Wallingford.. Box 101122 T

THE BEST IS YET TO BE Car-

ing, romantic Bicester male, 59, works full-times, loves

48-55 to share life and love

with.. Box 118655 T

weekend away, car boot sales and walking, looking for a lady

STARTING TOGETHER Country

loving Wallingford widower, 59, 6', grown up children, likes

sports, theatre, meals out, 60s

music, cooking, would like to meet an easygoing sociable lady, for company and more.. Box 114484 T

CONFIDENTLY YOURS Widowed

chap, 59, 5'10", own house/ business, Witney based, enjoys

music, country walks, pubs, fishing, gardening, seeks outgo-ing female, to enjoy life again...

BETTER WITH COMPANY Tactile

male, 60, 5'7", wears glasses, likes days out, country walks, evenings in, looking for a young lady, 50-60 to enjoy these good times together.

Northampton.. Box 104324 T

Box 107964

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Easygoing, non-smoking, divorced Abingdon man, 61, 5'10", average build, would to meet a nice lady, to share good times together.. Box 114301 T

READY TO MOVE ON Young, car ing Didcot guy, 62, 5'9", enjoys the sea, reading and boating, would like to meet a similar lady for companionship.. Box 117043 T

SAIL AWAY WITH ME Young 60, I'm a caring guy, 5ft9, full head of hair! I live in Didcot and enjoy the sea, reading, boats. WLTM similar lady.. Box

THAT CERTAIN SOMEONE Happy go lucky Oxford male, 62, would love to meet a smart elegant lady who is outgoing and sincere, to settle down into a lasting relationship.. Box

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Witney male, 63, loves cinema, theatre, eating out and more, searching for a serious-minded

ive relationship.. Box 109413 T

lady, for a loving and supp

LOOKING FOR LTR Youthful.

man, 65, 5'9", 11st, own home and car, loves music, places of interest and experiencing the

new, seeking a loving, feminine

woman, to share a warmth.. Box

KINDRED SPIRITS Presentable,

educated chap, 65, enjoys the arts, history, places of interest,

exploring towns/countryside

vivacious lady. Oxford.. Box

solvent Oxfordshire gent, 65, 5'9", lover of classic cars, soul,

Motown, coffee and theatre searching for an attractive, in-teresting lady, 50-65, to share and explore interesting times...

OPEN YOUR HEART Cheerful

male, 68, 5'6'', slim build, gsoh, likes sports, walks, animals, seeks decent lady, 55-70 to settle down with. Banbury.. Box

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101058 T

Box 104998

104901 T

crossword, wltm charm-male, to share quality times. Oxford.. Box 100937

male, 76, looks younger, 5'6",

eniovs pubs meals, car boot



FROM ONE TO ANOTHER Sincere, honest, friendly Oxford female, 35, looking for an honest, reliable female 30-40,

who likes cinema, walking and shopping, for a possible lasting relationship.. Box 118672 T HOPE THIS WORKS Cuddly Swindon lady, 46, easygoing and fun to be with, looking for

friendship leading to more with a nice, friendly, bubbly woman... Box **851817** T THE BEST OF FRIENDS?

Friendly, chatty Oxford female, 56, likes chats, coffee, lunch and anything else, looking for males and female for friendship.. Box 116662

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Payne's balance of laughs with despair

THE DESCENDANTS (15, 115 mins) Drama/Comedy/ Romance. George Clooney, Shailene Woodley, Amara Miller, Nick Krause, Matthew Lillard, Judy Greer, Beau Bridges, Mary Birdsong, Rob Huebel, Patricia Hastie. Director: Alexander Payne.

GOOD things come to those who wait and it's been an agonising seven years since writer-director Alexander Payne ventured to the sun-dappled vineyards of the quirky Oscarwinning comedy Sideways.

He has directed a couple of short films and a TV pilot in the interim but Payne's distinctive voice has been silent for too long.

Thankfully, the acclaimed debut novel of Kaui Hart Hemmings has wooed the film-maker back into the director's chair, working from a beautifully crafted script by Nat Faxon and Jim Rash.

Set against the lush backdrop of the Hawaiian islands, The Descendants is a heartbreaking portrait of a family in crisis.

The film provides George Clooney with the role of his career and the handsome star elegantly navigates choppy emotional waters as a father who must turn off his wife's life support machine while dealing with the grief of his two children.

The scene in which his character prepares to give the final order to doctors, kissing his beloved on the forehead and whispering, "Goodbye my love, my pain", as a single tear rolls down his cheek, is sublime.

An Oscar next month would be a



A scene from the film from Descendants

Picture: PA Photo/E1 Entertainment



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To stand a chance of winning, correctly answer the following question:

George Clooney, above, who stars in *The Descendants*, has a very famous aunt. Was her name?

a. Rosemary Clooney? b. Beryl Clooney?

c. Sharon Clooney? Email your answer to

jeremy.smith@nqo.com by noon, next

You must include a daytime telephone number as you will be contacted by phone. Normal Newsquest rules apply. The editor's decision is final

fitting reward. Matthew King (Clooney) stares forlornly at his adrenaline-junkie wife Liz (Patricia Hastie) as she lies in a vegetative state after a water-skiing accident.

Doctors tell him there is no hope of recovery and everyone should say their farewells.

With a heavy heart, Matthew bravely gathers together his ten-year-old daughter Scottie (Amara Miller) and his rebellious 17-yearold daughter Alex (Shailene

Woodley). Characters are delicately sketched and there are lovely scenes between Clooney, Woodley and youngster Miller as they try to

make sense of the hand that fate has cruelly dealt them.

Comic relief comes in part from Nick Krause, as Alex's slacker pal Sid, who joins the Kings on their painful odyssey.

However, even he tugs the heartstrings in a remarkable, early morning heart-to-heart with Matthew which reveals the anguish behind his clown's goofy

Belly laughs are balanced with tragedy and despair and Payne doesn't strike a single false emotional note, although he does allow sentimentality to creep in for the sombre final five minutes.

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CakeWhat's On

TODAY: The Theatre, Spring Street, Chipping Norton: The Budapest Café Orchestra. Eastern Europe folk. £13, conc £11. 7.45pm. *01608 642350* TOMORROW: General Foods Club, Spiceball Park Road, Banbury: Pete Watkins, singer.

9pm. £1. 01295 252852 Horse and Jockey, Malthouse Lane, Bodicote: No Tools Reqd. playing live. 9pm. Free admission. 01295 269549.

Mill Arts Centre, Spiceball Park, Banbury: Southern Tenant Folk Union a top folk and bluegrass outfit. £10. 8pm. 01295 279002.

The Musketeer, Ruscote Avenue, Banbury: Cover To Cover. Songs from the 50s to 80s. 9pm. Free. 01295 269296.

SATURDAY: General Foods Club, Spiceball Park Road, Banbury: The Cloud. The Cloud. 01295

Cinema

Odeon, Horsefair, Banbury: A Monster in Paris, U, Sat-Sun 11.45am, daily 4.10pm (audiodescribed); (3-D) daily 1, 6pm (audio-described). Chronicle, 12A, Wed-Thu 8.45pm (audiodescribed). Haywire, 15, Fri-Tue 8.45pm (audio-described). Hugo, U, Sun 11am* (audio-described).

War Horse, 12A, daily 1.30*, 5*, 8.15pm* (audio-described; subtitled Tue 5pm). Senior Screen: The Three Musketeers, 12A, Wed doors 10.45am*, programme 11am*, ends 1.01pm. Odeon Kids: Hop, U, Sat programme 11am*, ends 12.50pm. (NB: cinema may refuse admission to guests arriving after the feature has started.) Box office: 0871 224

Theatre

Mill Arts Centre, Spiceball Park, Banbury: Jan 26, Comedy club with Barnstormers Comedy. £10

adv, £12 at the door. 8pm. Jan 28, Rob Rouse: Life Sentences. (Not suitable for children). 7.30pm. £10.

Feb 1, Awkward by Peppered Wit Productions. 8pm. £8, concession £6. Box office: 01295 279002.

The Theatre, Spring Street, Chipping Norton: Jan 27. Much Ado About Wenlock. A comic play celebrating the Olympian Games' unlikely UK roots in Much Wenlock. £13, concession £11. 7.45pm. Box office: 01608

Events

SATURDAY: Finnley Day: Town Hall, Bridge Street, Banbury. Family fun day and fete event in memory of Finnley Froude. Games, refreshments, facepainting, balloons, bric a brac, books, CDs, DVDs, tombola, bottle raffle, craft and more. 9am-5.30pm. 07717 710262.

CakeSport banburycake.co.uk/sport

WRC team returns to legendary event to take second and a seventh place Minis shine at the Monte rally

BANBURY'S Mini World Rally Championship team finished the Monte Carlo Rally with second and seventh places.

It was only the team's seventh FIA World Rally Championship event, but it was the third podium for the team's Spanish crew.

On the final stage of the event, the 5.16km Power Stage at Ste Agnès – Col de la Madone - Spaniards Dani Sordo and Carlos del Barrio Sordo set the fourth fastest time, while French crew of Pierre Campana and Sabrina de Castelli were tenth quickest.

Team principal Dave Wilcock said: "This was my first event as team principal, so to get a second in Monte Carlo with the Mini WRC Team was absolutely fantastic. Obviously we are all extremely pleased.

"We had all our fingers crossed wanting to get through the Power Stage with no problems.

"Dani was fourth quickest through it, which is fine, even though we were hoping for another drivers' championship point - but what you want doesn't always happen! We are extremely happy with the result as both Dani and Pierre have done very good jobs for the team. The whole team has worked so hard for this and it is well deserved."

Dirk Hollweg, head of Mini Motorsport: said: "I am very happy that the brand has returned to this legendary event and scored a very impressive result with not just Dani on the podium, but also Pierre really doing a great job for such a relatively inexperienced



The Banburybased **WRC Mini** on the podium at Mote Carlo

Banbury fall 2-1 late on

A GOAL three minutes from time sent Banbury United to defeat away to Premier Division strugglers Hemel Hempstead Town on Saturday. Marguin Smith put the hosts into a 16th-minute

lead when he reacted guickest to Charlie Gorman's header and poked home at the second attempt from close range.

And it needed two excellent reflex saves from Banbury keeper Andy Kemp to deny Hemel further goals in the first half.

Banbury came more into the game after the break, with Simeon Williams missing a good chance to equalise.

On the hour, Ricky Johnson went close when his shot from just inside the area on the right went inches wide of the far post.

Two minutes later, Johnson was in the thick of the action again when his powerful shot on target was well blocked by defender Bill Morgan.

The Puritans eventually drew level midway through the half following a mistake by home keeper Ross Kitteridge.

His poor goal-kick went straight to Johnson, who advanced on goal and fired home.

The game appeared to be drifting towards a draw, when Hemel hit the winner in the 87th

Pearce's corner was controlled by Ellis Remy, who fed Morgan. He kept his cool to grab his

side three valuable points. Banbury United: Kemp, Coleman, Kinch, Dolman, Chilton, Howell, Williams, Cole, Johnson, Blake (Edmond 84), Polk (Angus 64). Subs not used: Fraser, Thackeray. Attendance: 245.

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Discount clothing chain reveals intention to appoint administrators

Rocky economy hits a new high street retailer

By Andrew Smith

THE Oxfordshire retail scene has suffered another blow after discount clothing chain Peacocks announced it intends to file for administration.

The group operates four Peacocks stores, one in Banbury, as well as others in Headington, Cowley and

It also operates a Bonmarche clothing shops in Banbury with other branches in Cowley and Didcot. All are continuing to trade.

Bosses said they had entered into "exclusive talks" with a potential buyer for Bonmarche and that to "protect" the business while the sale process completes, it had filed an intention to appoint administrators.

Meanwhile, the wider group, which includes the larger Peacocks chain, said it would also appoint administrators after it failed to reach an agreement with

The Cardiff-based retailer employs more than 10,000 staff at 611 stores across the UK.

The group is the latest in a growing list of high street names to hit the rocks.

On Monday, 30 workers from the head office of troubled gift retailer Past Times were made redundant after the company was taken into administration.

Last week the company closed all its Oxfordshire stores, including the one in Banbury, which was among 47 axed by the firm out of 98 nationwide, leading to

Cameron climbs to new heights

Labour deputy's praise FORMER deputy Labour

Former

leader Roy Hattersley praised current leader Ed Miliband, as he was speaking at a public event at The Institute, Adderbury, on Friday.

He told the meeting: "Ed Miliband believes in the right things, and his speech at the Party conference about responsible capitalism is proof

He said of heated exchanges between the leader and Prime Minister David Cameron at Prime Minister's Questions: "The cheaper you are, the better you do."

Lord Hattersley also said he

believed Mr Miliband could win the next General Election. Lord Hattersley, deputy to

leader Neil Kinnock from 1983 to 1992, also called for Labour to campaign to "save" the NHS, which was undergoing reforms where most budgets would transfer into the hands of GPs.

Fraudster due back in court

FRAUDSTER Dennis Grant is due back in court in June.

The 63-year-old former head of Cotswold Water Park was due to appear at Gloucester Crown Court on lanuary 13 for a confiscation hearing under the Proceeds of Crime Act, to hear how much of the cash he plundered will have to be paid back.

However, the hearing was postponed and Grant, of Upper Tadmarton, is now due to appear on June 14, almost a year after his conviction for fraud totalling £660,000.

He is currently serving a four-year sentence at Leyhill Open Prison in Gloucestershire.



Boost for dyslexic pupils

A CLASSROOM dedicated to helping Banbury School's dyslexic pupils has opened, thanks to fundraising efforts.

The £4,000 raised has paid for computers, books suited to dyslexic pupils and board games which help develop-

Grants and fundraising activities by pupils, including a car wash, raised the cash.

About 100 pupils have dyslexia at the school, which has about 1,400 youngsters.

Banbury MP Tony Baldry opened the

classroom on Friday .

He said: "I am sure it will open up a world of opportunities to these pupils when they leave school, something that they may otherwise have not had without such crucial support."

£3m youth centre at an open day on Saturday.

The nine-year-old was among visitors to the New Futures Centre, in Hilton Road, Banbury, which provides activities, services and support for young people.

The Oxfordshire County Council centre is part of a network of "early intervention hubs" which is taking on youth work after cuts to county youth centres last year.

The building includes a performance hall, music rooms, recording studio, art rooms, gym, workshop and

At the open day on Saturday, there was a climbing wall, a dance demonstration and music.

InBRIEF

New store is launched

■ POUNDWORLD launched its first Oxfordshire store in Banbury on Friday. The retailer opened at Banbury Cross Retail Park, a move that has created 30 jobs. The Yorkshire-based firm was founded in 1997 and the store is its 132nd in the UK.

Fairtrade celebrations

■ DETAILS have been announced of a major event to celebrate the town's involvement in the Fairtrade movement

The Banbury Fairtrade Group is to hold a "Fairtrade Fiesta" to recognise 20 years of the brand, which aims to give Third World producers a better deal.

Banbury was given Fairtrade status in 2006, which has seen the town council, businesses and community groups pledge to support and promote Fairtrade.

The event will be held at Banbury Town Hall in Bridge Street on Saturday, March 3, from 10.30am to 3pm and feature stalls and information about the movement.

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CakeProperty

How we all used to live

By Gill Oliver

PUPILS from St Mary's C of E Primary School, Banbury, met residents of Foxhall Court to find out how things have changed since the

The visit to the retirement development in School Lane was part of a national project aimed at bringing history to life for

The youngsters heard firsthand accounts of how eating and shopping habits have changed during the last 80 years.

Sue Blackman, of developers McCarthy & Stone, said: "St Mary's Primary School's visit to Foxhall Court was a wonderful

opportunity to bring together two generations that could share their stories and learn from one another.'

Kathryn Crawford, headteacher at St Mary's School, added: "The visit was a great opportunity for pupils to see a snapshot of the last century brought to life through practical experience."

During the next couple of months, the pupils will compare house design, transport and schools from the 1930s to

For more information about one and two-bedroom assisted living retirement apartments at Foxhall Court, call 01295 261114, visit the show apartment, open daily from 10.30am to 5pm, or go to www.mccarthyandstone.co.uk

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Foxhall Court resident Renee Jackson with St Mary's pupils Olivia Bedlow and Erin Taylor

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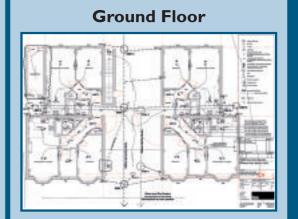
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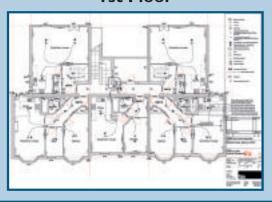
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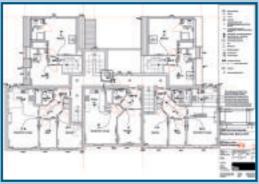
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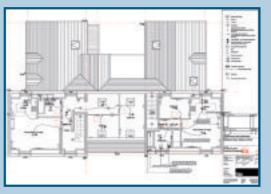
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BANBURY CAKE, Thursday, January 26, 2012 **21**

■ BMW is to complete the engine line-up for the 1 Series five-door hatchback, with three new powerplants arriving within months. The 116d EfficientDynamics will be BMW's most efficient model ever, dipping to the magic 99g/km marker and achieving 74.3mpg in EU tests. Towards the other end of the scale, the 125d and 125i are only available in M Sport trim — a new addition to the five-door hatchback range. They both feature the same power, at 215bhp, and identical 6.5second 0-62mph acceleration times. The petrol 125i will be more costly to run, at 44.1mpg and 152g/km of CO2, but costs £26,030 compared with the £27,820 125d.

Wheelsanddeals

- A lower-powered diesel version of the Jaguar XF executive saloon has been unveiled, which lowers the entry price for the XF range to £29,950 on the road. The 2.2-litre four-cylinder engine, based heavily on the existing unit, has 161bhp, down from the familiar 187bhp. It takes 9.8 seconds to reach 62mph compared to the more powerful version's 8.0 seconds. It will be £1,000 cheaper than the current entry-level XF SE, which is equipped with the higher-powered diesel engine.
- Antelope of Banbury Nissan is celebrating news of Nissan GB's record-breaking production success in 2011, producing 480,485 vehicles in 12 months. Elliot Fairbrother, dealer principal at Antelope Of Banbury Nissan, said: "Many of our customers are pleasantly surprised when they realise that their new car was built in the UK. The fact of the matter is that Nissan's Sunderland plant is the biggest car manufacturing plant in the country.."

Cake Motoring banburycake.co.uk/cars

VW takes rough with the smooth

By David Duffy

here is not even the smallest badge on the back of Volkswagen's new Tiguan to give you a clue that you are a member of a very exclusive club.

Only a subtly different front end gives the clue that the top-of-therange Escape model, unlike some other versions in the range, is a fullon macho 4x4. But those off-road credentials are cloaked in a thoroughly upmarket package, both inside and out.

On the road, the German-built Tiguan is a rock solid four-door, five-seater, offering a quiet, precise, reassuringly unruffled ride. Inside, the trim is understated, yet elegant and both instrumentation and switchgear are straightforward, clear and simple to use, as you would expect from Volkswagen.

All models are well equipped, with 16-inch alloy wheels, air conditioning, DAB radio and alarm standard across the range.

Move up the four-specification range and everything from an automatic parking system and automatic headlights, to Bluetooth phone link and a fatigue detection system are available. In the rear, all Tiguans have a 60:40 split/fold rear bench which can recline and slide backwards and forwards. The rear bench

is also fitted slightly higher than the front seats: improving all-round visibility for children, and making fitting their seat belts easier.

The new Escape model comes with some classy touches, such as Bluetooth and a multi-function steering wheel, which reflects the rising demands of customers in this sector of the market.

Like the previous model, the Tiguan comes with a choice of twoor four-wheel-drive, with a strong resemblance to its 'big brother' the Touareg, and a new look dominated by horizontal lines on the front grille, like other new Volkswagen models.

Six engines are available, but diesel power rules for Tiguan owners, with nine out of ten opting for diesel.

The six-speed manual gearbox test model was powered by the 140 horsepower version of the 2.0-litre

Auto facts

Model: Volkswagen Tiguan Escape BlueMotion 2.0 TDI 4Motion Price: £25,840

Insurance group: 18E (1-50)
Fuel consumption (Combined)
48 7mpg

Top speed: 116mph Length: 443.3cm/174.5in Width: 180.9cm/71.2in Luggage capacity: 16.6 cu ft Fugl tank capacity: 14 gallons/64 litres CO₂ emissions: 150g/km

Warranty: 3 years/60,000 miles



UPMARKET PACKAGE: The Tiguan Escape 4x4 is a well-equipped off-roader

TDI engine, which is the best-seller in the range.

The Escape model also comes with a shorter front overhang; protective side strips and a shield for the radiator grille; sump guard and underbody protection, compass and flat-tyre indicator.

Volkswagen estimates that only three out of every 100 Tiguan buyers opt for the seriously off-road-ready Escape, which says volumes about where most so-called 'crossover' vehicles spend their time.

Usedcarscene

Bargain hunters can track down cool deals

WINTER can be the best time to bag a used car bargain, according to recent trends. Industry experts Glass's suggest that shorter days and post-Christmas money worries mean many buyers wait until the spring — so bargain hunters can get better deals in the

quiet months.

The only exception to this rule is for those looking to buy a used 4x4 as after three consecutive white winters, snowproof vehicles are in higher demand.

But conversely, those considering buying a convertible model for this summer shouldn't delay as

the savings will be even greater.

Prices for convertible models peak in summer, but demand is very low in winter, so bargains for drop-tops are plentiful.

Meanwhile, tests have begun on a zero-emission version of Skoda's family hatchback, which will see 10 all-electric Green E Line Octavias rolling around the streets of Mlada Boleslav in the Czech Republic.

The real-world evaluations mark Skoda's first use of an electric powertrain on the public road. The technology, which is being

developed in tandem with

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other Volkswagen Group companies, will give engineers an insight as to whether plug-in cars of the Octavia's size are viable yet.

It will also show the companies those aspects of the systems that need to be improved or could be developed further prior to production.

Using a total of 180 battery cells, the Octavia Green E Line can hit 62mph in 12 seconds, with a top speed of 84mph. The motor's 199lb.ft of torque is available from zero revs, making it very quick from stationary up to urban speeds.

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28th Sept 2012,

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condition inside

and out

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1.4 1999

manual,dark

red, petrol,

manual, 76,000

miles approx.

MoT June 12,

tax Jan 13,

mechanically

goodl

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1 previous owner, Black Metalic. (2000) Wreg, New Turbo, Clutch and Cambelt, Allovs, Factory Lowered Suspension Climate Air Con, New Mot, E/W. C/L. P/S

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MOTORING **ABBREVIATIONS**

abs

anti-locking braking system a/c air conditioning 4wd

four wheel drive c/l

central locking e/mirrors

electric mirrors e/sunroof

electric sunroof

ffsr factory fitted sunroof

fsh full service history

n/c no canvassers

ono or nearest offer

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service history

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